

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2313

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 15353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI CONTINUES CRITICISM OF FOREIGN DETRACTORS

REF: NEW DELHI 15308

SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 19 DELHI DAILIES CARRIED REMARKS BY MRS. GANDHI CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT SELECTIVELY CRITICIZE INDIA WHILE SUPPORTING AUTOCRATIC REGIMES ELSEWHERE. TAKEN WITH HER NOVEMBER 17 HYDRABAD COMMENTS (REFTEL), THE TEMPO OF SUCH CHARGES APPEARS TO BE ON THE INCREASE. THIS TREND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE - AT LEAST THROUGH THE DECEMBER 4-8 PATNA INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST CONFERENCE WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ADDRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ORAL COMMENTS TO A GROUP OF POLICE OFFICERS VISITING HER HOME ON NOVEMBER 18, AND IN A WRITTEN MESSAGE TO A DISTRICT LEVEL ANTI-FASCIST RALLY IN RAJASTHAN SCHEDULED FOR NOV-
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EMBER 19, MRS. GANDHI REITERATED CHARGES AGAINST DEMOCRATIC

GOVERNMENTS THAT SELECTIVELY CRITICIZE THE GOI WHILE SUPPORTING AUTOCRATIC REGIMES ELSEWHERE. BOTH HER ORAL AND WRITTEN REMARKS DEALT MAINLY WITH DOMESTIC THEMES. THEY WERE RELEASED BY THE GOI AND RECEIVED TREATMENT IN THE DELHI PRESS ON NOVEMBER 19.

2. IN HER COMMENTS TO THE POLICE OFFICERS, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CAUTIONED AGAINST DISRUPTIVE FORCES WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE COUNTRY WHO WERE TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE STABILITY OF THE NATION. THE UNI ACCOUNT CARRIED IN MOST DAILIES STATED, "MRS. GANDHI REFERRED TO 'SOME COUNTRIES' WHICH HAD NO SCRUPLES IN USING MONEY, ENERGY AND TALENT IN SUPPORTING AUTOCRATIC REGIMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WHO HAD NOW SUDDENLY BECOME CHAMPIONS ON DEMOCRACY." SHE SAID SUCH NATIONS HAD NO BUSINESS TO CRITICIZE INDIA FOR HAVING TAKEN STEPS TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY. DEFERRING TO THE MOTIVATED CAMPAIGNS IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS AGAINST INDIA, SHE SAID THEY WERE PRESENTING A DISTORTED PICTURE OF THE REAL SITUATION."

3. IN HER LETTER TO THE RAJASTHAN ANTI-FASCIST CONVENTION, UNI QUOTES HER AS SAYING "OUR LATEST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN HOW GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE NOT DEMOCRATIC THEMSELVES OR WHO HAVE HELPED TO OVERTHROW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES OR ARE STILL GIVING MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES, HAVE SUDDENLY AWAKENED TO A CONCERN FOR DEMOCRACY IN INDIA. . .IT IS A LEGACY OF THE COLONIAL DAYS THAT MANY OF OUR PEOPLE SEEM TO ACCEPT WITHOUT QUESTION WHAT SOME BIG POWERS SAY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND EVEN ABOUT THEMSELVES."

4. COMMENT. MRS. GANDHI'S STATEMENTS RESEMBLE THOSE SHE MADE IN HYDRABAD ON NOVEMBER 17 REPORTED REFTEL. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS TEMPO WILL CONTINUE AT LEAST THROUGH THE DECEMBER 4-8 INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST CONFERENCE WHICH MRS. GANDHI IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS. FONMIN CHAVAN WILL ADDRESS AN ANTI-FASCIST MEETING IN CALCUTTA TODAY ALONG WITH A CLUTCH OF CPI SPEAKERS. SAXBE

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